GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5827
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2000
RESUMPTION OF IA FLIGHTS
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government held diplomatic discussions with Nepal over the question of resumption of IA flights;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether any assurance has been given by the Nepal Government to provide safety and security to planes and passengers; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) - (d) : A 6-member Civil Aviation Expert Team that visited Nepal from January 19-25, 2000 discussed with the Nepalese authorities the strengthening of security and immigration controls at the Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu. Indian Airlines has also identified certain additional measures which they would need to take for ensuring the safety of their Aircraft, passengers and crew in the wake of the hijacking, consistent with ICAO norms and international civil aviation procedures and practice.One round of bilateral discussions has been held in Kathmandu from March 28 - April 01, 2000 to firm up these arrangements. Progress has been made but some procedures need to be further refined and finalised. The flights will resume as soon as these operational details are tied up. On their part, the Nepalese Government have also assured us that they are taking the necessary measures to enhance security at the Tribhuvan International Airport on a priority basis.